

## Enhancing Maternal Knowledge to Prevent Stunting: A Systematic Review of Conventional and Video-Based Education Methods

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### ABSTRACT

**Background:** Stunting remains a major public health problem with long-term consequences on child growth and development. Maternal education plays an important role in stunting prevention efforts. Various educational methods, including conventional approaches and video-based interventions, have improved maternal knowledge.

**Objective:** To evaluate the effectiveness of conventional and video-based educational interventions in improving mothers' knowledge about stunting. **Methods:** A systematic review was conducted by searching relevant databases. A total of 15 eligible studies were included and analyzed based on study design, intervention type, population, knowledge assessment tools, and key findings.

**Methodological** quality was assessed using the JBI Critical Appraisal Tool.

**Results:** All studies reported an increase in maternal knowledge after the educational intervention. Video-based education showed more significant and consistent results compared to conventional methods. However, intervention design, media, and duration variations contributed to the heterogeneity of findings.

**Conclusion:** Video-based education is an effective and promising approach to improve mothers' knowledge about stunting. Further research using a robust experimental design and long-term evaluation is recommended to assess its impact on behavior change in stunting prevention.

**Keyword:** *stunting, maternal education, educational video, knowledge, systematic review*

### 1. BACKGROUND

Stunting is a worldwide health problem that impacts the development and growth of children. (1–3). The World Health Organisation's (WHO) latest data reports that more than 140 million children under five will be stunted by 2020, with a global prevalence of 22.9%. (4–6). the second highest stunting rate in Southeast Asia shows how urgent this problem is. The long-term impact of stunting is not only limited to stunted physical growth, but also to cognitive development and reduced future economic production. (7–10).

The prevalence of stunting in Indonesia has decreased from 24.4% in 2021 to 21.6% in 2022. Despite the decrease in the percentage of cases, Indonesia still has major challenges in order to achieve the national targets in accordance with the National Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMN) 2020-2024 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (1,11–13). Mothers' ignorance about child care and nutrition is one of the biggest obstacles to stunting prevention(14–18). Research consistently reports that improving maternal knowledge is key to stunting prevention and emphasises the need for effective educational interventions to support child health(19–21).

The mother plays a very important role in the health and nutrition of the child. To ensure that children receive adequate

nutrition at this crucial stage of their development, mothers' knowledge of stunting is essential(22–24). This is one of the most cost-effective preventive measures in reducing the incidence of stunting. By understanding the definition of stunting, its effects and prevention, mothers can provide good nutrition for their children (25,26).

Enhancing mothers' knowledge about stunting can be done through the provision of health education both conventionally such as face-to-face (teaching) and counselling (counselling) and modernly, namely videp-based or digital(27–29). Enhancing mothers' knowledge about stunting can be done through the provision of health education both conventionally such as face-to-face (teaching) and counselling (counselling) and modernly, namely videp-based or digital (30–36). Result has been shown that the use of audiovisual techniques can help increase the understanding of families with children under five about stunting (37,38). The method used in providing information has a significant effect on the effectiveness of the education programme.

Despite several studies on health education and stunting prevention, there is still a gap in the literature comparing the comparative effectiveness of conventional approaches and video-based interventions. To date, there are no systematic studies that clearly compare the two approaches in order to improve mothers' understanding of stunting. Therefore, it is imperative to conduct a systematic review to synthesise the available scientific data and provide recommendations based on the findings.

The aim of this review is to explore and compare the effectiveness of conventional education and video-based interventions in improving mothers' knowledge about stunting. By conducting this systematic review, we hope to provide new insights and recommendations for the development of more effective health education strategies to prevent stunting among mothers

## 2. METHODS

### a. Research Design

This review aimed to assess the effectiveness of conventional and video-based techniques in improving mothers' knowledge on stunting prevention. The review followed the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) standard.

### b. Eligibility criteria

**The PICOS framework was used to determine the inclusion and exclusion criteria.**

1. Population(P)	: Pregnant mums or those with children under the age of five
2. Intervention(I)	: Educational interventions, both conventional and modern
3. Compare(C)	: Conventional techniques vs. video-based educational approach
4. Out put(O)	: Improved maternal understanding of stunting
5. Study design(S)	: Quantitative research (RCT, quasi-experimental, cohort)

### c. Inclusion and Exclusion Ctriteria

Inclusion Criteria	Exclusion Criteria
Research published in English	Editorials, reviews and opinion articles
Publication Year 2019-2025	Publication beyond 2019-2025
Peer-reviewed journal	Not peer-reviewed
Focus on maternal education on stunting	Research without a focus on mothers' knowledge of stunting
Measurable maternal knowledge outcomes	Research not written in English
Detailed intervention methods (conventional and video-based)	

### d. Search Strategy

- Electronic searches were conducted using four databases: Google Scholar, PubMed, and ScienceDirect,.
- Searches were conducted between January 2019 and March 2025 using the following keyword combinations:

'maternal knowledge' AND "stunting" AND ('health education' OR "conventional education" OR "video education" OR "digital media"). Boolean operators and Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) were used where appropriate.

#### e. Selection process study

All identified articles are reviewed jointly between researchers and supervisors based on title and abstract. Full-text screening was conducted for studies that met the inclusion criteria. Any discrepancies were resolved through discussion or consultation. The study selection process is illustrated using the PRISMA flow chart. It can be seen in figure 1.

#### f. Data Extraction

The standardized data extraction form was used to collect key information from each included study: title, authors, year of publication, country, study design, sample, type of intervention, tools to measure knowledge, and main outcomes. This can be seen in table 1. Data extraction.

#### g. Quality Assessment

The methodological quality of the included studies was assessed using the Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI) Critical Appraisal Tool, based on study type. Each study was classified as high, medium, or low quality based on the assessment criteria. Results can be seen in table 2.

#### h. Synthesis of data

Because of the heterogeneity in study designs and outcome measures, a narrative synthesis approach was used. Studies were grouped and analysed based on the type of educational intervention (conventional vs. video-based) and the level of improvement in mothers' knowledge of stunting.

### 3. RESULTS

The results of article searches on databases such as Google Scholar, PubMed, and ScienceDirect can be seen in Figure 1 below;

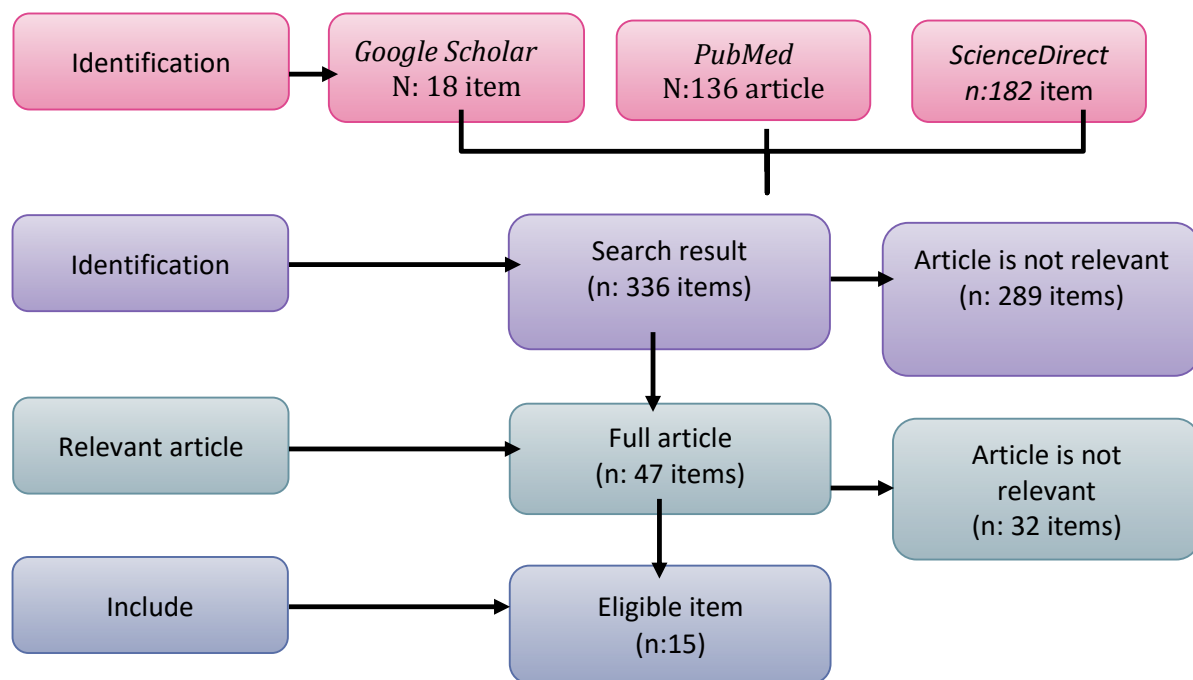


Figure 1: PRISMA Method Article Search Method

Table 1. Extraction of Research Data

N o.	Title	Author/ Years	Country	Study design	Sample	Type of intervention	Tools to measure knowledge	Results
	Effect of video-assisted educational intervention on improving knowledge, attitude and practice among mothers of children below five years on malnutrition: A systematic review	(39)	Manipal Academy of Higher Education	a systematic review analysing randomised controlled trials (RCTs)	Mothers with children under 5 years of age.	Video-based education provided to mothers, with a comparison group, to evaluate knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) related to malnutrition.	Risk of bias assessment was conducted using the Cochrane risk of bias assessment tool.	Of the 11,434 articles screened, seven The RCTs met the inclusion criteria. There were statistically significant improvements in mothers' knowledge (n = 2), attitudes (n = 1), and practices (n = 6) regarding feeding practices after the video-based educational intervention.
	Maternal education is essential but may not be sufficient to prevent child stunting: a commentary	(41)	Lacks specific information	A commentary analysing various studies on the role of maternal education in preventing child stunting	Lacks specific information	Lacks specific information	Lacks specific information	This article discusses and compares findings from previous studies to highlight that while maternal education is important, it may not

								be sufficient to prevent stunting without additional interventions such as improved economic access to nutritious food, health services and sanitation.
	Online educational intervention: Improving maternal knowledge and attitudes in providing developmental stimulation for stunting toddler	(42)	Indonesia	Quasi Pre and post test of intervention with control groups	96 mothers with stunted toddlers aged 2-5 years; 46 in the treatment group and 46 in the control group	Education on online growth stimulation using WhatsApp groups, e-modules, and video materials for 12 meetings	Questionnaires that have been tested for validity and reliability	Significant improvement in mothers' knowledge scores in the treatment group compared to the control group; no significant difference in attitudes between the two groups.
	The influence of stunting education using video playback and demonstration methods on the knowledge of mothers with stunted children	(43)	Indonesia	Quasi-experiment with time-series	34 mothers with stunted toddlers	Education on stunting using demonstration methods with simple food ingredients and screening of illustrative videos	Questioner pre-test post-test	Maternal knowledge score increased significantly from an average of $5.22 \pm 1.65$ in the pre-test to $7.58 \pm 1.76$ in the post-test after the intervention.
	Maternal education and its	(44)	Various countries	Systematic reviews and	This study analysed data from multiple	There was no direct intervention	Not mentioned specifically	The higher level of maternal

	influence on child growth and nutritional status during the first two years of life: a systematic review and meta-analysis		s	meta-analyses	studies involving mothers and children aged 0-24 months.	on; focus on the relationship between mother's education level and child growth and nutritional status		education is positively associated with better nutritional status and growth of children during the first two years of life.
	The Effect Of Health Education Video Media On Pregnant Women's Prevention Knowledge Stunting In The Work Area Of Regional Public Service Agency Public Service Agency (BLUD) Selajambe Kuningan Regency Health Center In 2023	(45)	Indonesia	Pre-experimental with One Group Pretest-Posttest model	Pregnant Woman	Health education uses video media	Structured questionnaire	Before intervention, 39 out of 48 respondents (81.3%) had good knowledge. After being given education through videos, the number of respondents who had good knowledge increased to 42 people (87.5%).
	Stunting prevention efforts through knowledge interventions of toddler mothers using booklets and video	(46)	Indonesia	Quasi-experimental with pre-test and post-test with control group design	60 mothers with children under five	A booklet and video on stunting and prevention	A structured questionnaire	Although both methods were effective in improving mothers' knowledge about stunting, the video was superior to the booklet.

	Role of Maternal in Preventing Stunting: a Systematic Review	(47)	Various countries	Systematic review	Studies involving mothers and children	Focusing on the role of mothers in stunting prevention during the golden phase of child growth	Not mentioned specifically	Mothers play an important role in stunting prevention through proper nutrition, early breastfeeding initiation, exclusive breastfeeding, and complementary feeding.
	The effect of mothers' nutritional education and knowledge on children's nutritional status: a systematic review	(48)	Malnutrition is more common in developing countries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Based on literature from four major databases: Embase, ProQuest, PubMed, and Google Scholar.</li> <li>The analyzed studies included various research designs such as experiment</li> </ul>	The review study involved mothers of children under five with a focus on the impact of nutrition education on children's nutritional status.	Nutrition education for mothers through various methods, including Booklets, Guide, Leaflets, Internet technology applications, Brainstorming and demonstrations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maternal knowledge was measured using a structured questionnaire.</li> <li>Children's nutritional status was measured through indicators such as birth weight, body mass index (BMI), and other anthropometrics.</li> </ul>	Different educational methods such as booklets, demonstrations, and internet technology have been shown to be effective in improving mothers' knowledge and children's nutritional status.

				s and quasi - exper iment s.				
	Maternal nutrition counselling is associated with reduced stunting prevalence and improved feeding practices in early childhood: a post-program comparison study	(49)	□Not specific mention, but the research covers areas involved in public health intervention programmes	Post-programme comparative study, using data from a national cross-sectional survey.	3009 mother-child pairs, divided into two groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intervention group (n = 1557) who received a nutrition counselling package.</li> <li>• Control group (n = 1452) who received only the basic health education package.</li> </ul>	Nutritional counselling for mothers	A questionnaire to measure feeding practices and stunting prevalence.	Nutrition counselling for mothers can significantly reduce the prevalence of stunting and improve optimal feeding practices in children under five years old.



<u>Audiovisual Media Increases Stunting Prevention Knowledge Among Pregnant Women in The Working Area of Wani Health Center: Pretest, Posttest 1 and Posttest 2</u>	(50)	Indonesia	Pre-experimental with one-group pretest-posttest design	43 pregnant women in the working area of Puskesmas Wani	Health education using animated audiovisual media with a duration of 8 minutes 12 seconds	Questionnaire with 21 statements, conducted pretest, posttest 1, and posttest 2	A significant increase in knowledge in stunting prevention knowledge in pregnant women, with an average pretest score of 52.18, posttest 1 71.72, and posttest 2 90.86.
Effectiveness of Nutrition Education on Stunting Prevention Behavior Using Video Media	(51)	Indonesia	Quasi-experimental with pretest-posttest and control group	100 mothers with children under five (50 intervention, 50 control)	Nutrition education through video media and interactive discussions	Structured questionnaires that have been tested for validity and reliability	A significant increase in knowledge score from a mean of 58.4 to 85.6 in the intervention group ( $p < 0.001$ ), demonstrating the effectiveness of video media compared to conventional methods such as leaflets.
The Effectiveness of Nutrition Education about Stunting Using Video Media on The Knowledge and Attitudes	(52)	Indonesia	Quasi-experimental with pre-post test and control group	36 mothers of children under five at Teluk Lingga Health Centre, East Kalimantan	Educational video on stunting versus educational leaflet	Educational video on stunting versus Educational Leaflet	Video was more effective in improving knowledge (mean score increased from 7.39 to 19.72) and attitude

	of Mothers of Toddlers							than leaflet ( $p < 0.001$ ).
	Maternal knowledge on nutritional-focused nurturing care and associated factors among women with stunted children aged 6-23 months in Yogyakarta, Indonesia: A cross-sectional study	(53)	Indonesia	Cross-sectional	73 mothers of stunted toddlers in Kulon Progo, Yogyakarta	Measurement of knowledge about nutritional care using a standardized questionnaire	Validation questionnaire of four domains (responsive caregiving, safety, early learning, caregiver well-being)	Maternal education level and exposure to information related to nutritional care were significantly associated with the level of knowledge
	The Connection between Low Birth Weight and Knowledge Level Regarding the Incidence of Stunted in Kedunglumpang Village and Dukuh Mojo Village	(54)	Indonesia	Cross-sectional With correlation analysis	Mothers of children under five in Kapuas Hulu District, West Kalimantan	Nutrition counselling by midwives after the birth of a low birth weight baby (LBW)	Structured questionnaire related to risk factors for stunting	There is a significant relationship between the level of maternal knowledge and the incidence of stunting in early childhood ( $r = 0.731$ ).

Table 2. Methodological Quality of Studies based on JBI Assessment

Yes	Title	Study design	JBI Tools	Suspension (%)	Quality
1	Effect of video-assisted educational intervention on	Systematic Review	JBI Checklist for	9/11 (82%)	High

	improving knowledge, attitude and practice among mothers of children below five years on malnutrition: A systematic review		Systematic Reviews		
2	Maternal education is essential but may not be sufficient to prevent child stunting: a commentary	Editorial/Commentary	-	-	No. rated
3	Online educational intervention: Improving maternal knowledge and attitudes in providing developmental stimulation for stunting toddler	Quasi-experimental	JBI Checklist for Quasi-Experimental Studies	8/9 (89%)	High
4	The influence of stunting education using video playback and demonstration methods on the knowledge of mothers with stunted children	Quasi-experimental	JBI Checklist for Quasi-Experimental Studies	7/10	Moderate
5	Maternal education and its influence on child growth and nutritional status during the first two years of life: a systematic review and meta-analysis	Meta-analysis	JBI Checklist for Systematic Reviews	9/10	High
6	The Effect Of Health Education Video Media On Pregnant Women's Prevention Knowledge Stunting In The Work Area Of Regional Public Service Agency Public Service Agency (BLUD) Selajambe Kuningan Regency Health Center In 2023	Quasi-experimental	JBI Checklist for Quasi-Experimental Studies	6/10	Moderate
7	Stunting prevention efforts through knowledge interventions of toddler mothers using booklets and video	Quasi-experimental	JBI Checklist for Quasi-Experimental Studies	7/10	Moderate
8	Role of Maternal in Preventing Stunting: a Systematic Review	Systematic Review	JBI Checklist for Systematic Reviews	8/10	High
9	The effect of mothers' nutritional education and knowledge on children's nutritional status: a systematic review	Systematic Review	JBI Checklist for Systematic Reviews	8/10	High
10	Maternal nutrition counselling is associated with reduced stunting prevalence and improved feeding practices in early childhood: a post-program comparison study	A national cross-sectional survey.	JBI Checklist for Analytical Cross-Sectional Studies	6/10	Moderate
11	<u>Audiovisual Media Increases Stunting Prevention Knowledge Among Pregnant Women in The Working Area of Wani Health Center: Pretest, Posttest 1 and</u>	Quasi-experimental	JBI Checklist for Quasi-Experimental Studies	7/10	Moderate

Posttest 2

12	Effectiveness of Nutrition Education on Stunting Prevention Behavior Using Video Media	Quasi-experimental	JBIChecklist for Quasi-Experimental Studies	7/10	Moderate
13	The Effectiveness of Nutrition Education about Stunting Using Video Media on The Knowledge and Attitudes of Mothers of Toddlers	Quasi-experimental	JBIChecklist for Quasi-Experimental Studies	7/10	Moderate
14	Maternal knowledge on nutritional-focused nurturing care and associated factors among women with stunted children aged 6-23 months in Yogyakarta, Indonesia: A cross-sectional study	Cross-sectional	JBIChecklist for Analytical Cross-Sectional Studies	5/10	Lower
15	The Connection between Low Birth Weight and Knowledge Level Regarding the Incidence of Stunted in Kedunglumpang Village and Dukuh Mojo Village	Cross-sectional	JBIChecklist for Analytical Cross-Sectional Studies	5/10	Lower

Source: <https://jbi.global/critical-appraisal-tools>

Table 2 shows the results of the methodological quality assessment conducted with the Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI) tool. Of the 15 studies assessed, six were of high quality (40%), eight were of medium quality (53%), and two were of low quality (13%). This indicates that most of the studies had good methodology and fulfilled most of the JBI assessment criteria.

#### 4. DISCUSSION

This systematic review looks at how effective conventional and video-based education methods are for improving mothers' knowledge about stunting. The diversity of designs, interventions and measurement tools used is shown in the 15 studies analysed. The studies were mainly conducted in Indonesia, with pregnant women and mothers of children under five years old as subjects. Most studies used quasi-experimental or pre-experimental designs and pre-post-test methods. Conventional education, such as face-to-face training, leaflets, and books, and video-based education, either animations or stories, were used along with digital media such as WhatsApp. The intervention process ranged from one session to several weeks.

Overall, the results showed that both conventional and video-based educational approaches had a positive impact on improving mothers' knowledge about stunting. However, video-based interventions often show more significant results in improving knowledge scores. In line with research(55) which reported that there was an increase in the average knowledge of mothers after being given education using animated video media with a pre-test value of 70.24 and a post-test of 79.04. Wilcoxon signed rank test results  $p\text{-value} < 0.001$  ( $p \leq 0.05$ ). This is due to the fact that videos have advantages in terms of visualisation, which attracts attention, facilitates understanding of complex material, interactive and accessibility that allows mothers to learn at any time (56,57).

Based on the assessment results using the Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI) Critical Appraisal Tools, most of the articles reviewed in this study showed moderate to good methodological quality(58,59). This is indicated by the fulfilment of most of the JBI assessment criteria, such as the suitability of the research design and research questions, clarity of intervention objectives, and consistency between the methods and results presented.

However, there are methodological weaknesses in some studies that need to be critically considered. Some articles did not provide detailed information on the validity and reliability of the measurement tools used to assess maternal knowledge(60). In fact, validity and reliability are important components in ensuring that measuring instruments can accurately and consistently capture changes that occur. The absence of this information creates the potential for measurement bias, which can reduce confidence in the findings. In addition, some studies did not clearly explain the randomisation process or blinding technique, especially in experimental or quasi-experimental designs (61). These two aspects play an important role in minimising the risk of selection bias and observer perception bias.

The implication of this finding is that not all studies have the same strength of evidence. Therefore, in drawing conclusions

regarding the effectiveness of conventional education and video-based education in improving mothers' knowledge of stunting, researchers need to selectively consider the methodological quality of each study(62). In addition to highlighting methodological quality, this review also found considerable heterogeneity among the analysed studies. This heterogeneity includes various aspects, such as the form and content of the intervention design, the educational media used, the duration of the intervention, and the demographic characteristics of the participants (63).

Differences in participant characteristics, such as education level, residential location (urban vs. rural), and socioeconomic status, contributed to the mixed results. Mothers with higher levels of education tend to be more receptive to and understand information delivered through educational media (64). In terms of practical implications, the use of video-based educational media offers several significant advantages over conventional approaches. Educational videos are considered more flexible because they can be accessed independently by mothers anytime and anywhere(65–67). In addition, the delivery of information through audiovisual media allows for better absorption of the material as it involves visual and audio elements simultaneously. In developing countries, including Indonesia, which still face high stunting rates and unequal distribution of health services, the use of educational videos can be one of the innovative and applicable intervention strategies

In developing countries, including Indonesia, which still face high stunting rates and unequal distribution of health services, the use of educational videos can be one of the innovative and applicable intervention strategies(68).

## 5. CONCLUSION

This review shows that both video-based and conventional education are effective in improving mothers' knowledge about stunting. Due to its advantages in terms of visualisation and ease of access, video-based health education tends to produce better results. Despite differences in methodological quality and intervention design between studies, most showed significant improvements in knowledge.

For regions with limited health worker resources, video-based education can be an effective approach. However, to strengthen the evidence, further research is needed involving more rigorous experimental designs, use of standardised instruments and evaluation of the long-term behavioural impact of stunting prevention

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